

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 18, 21-24, 32 and 33 are amended herein. Claims 38, 50 and 53-55 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. All pending claims are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter the claims as amended.

**Listing of Claims**

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A composition, comprising:

a *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant deficient in capsular expression,~~ serotype 2 comprising SEQ ID NO: 9, wherein the *Streptococcus suis* mutant comprises a knockout mutation in a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 37 and SEQ ID NO: 43; the cpsB gene, the cpsE gene or the cpsF gene or a combination thereof, the knockout mutation causing a deficiency in cellular expression, and  
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant deficient in capsular expression~~ is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.

22. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant deficient in capsular expression~~ is capable of surviving at least 4-5 days in said immune-competent host.

23. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant deficient in capsular expression~~ expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

24. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 18, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant~~ deficient in capsular expression expresses a non-*Streptococcus* protein.

25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 24, wherein said non-*Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

26-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant~~ has been produced by homologous recombination.

33. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* ~~mutant~~ is capable of surviving at least 8-10 days in said host.

34-55. (Canceled)